

REMARKS

This RCE is responsive to the final Office Action dated April 1, 2005 in which the Examiner holds his rejections to all the pending claims as being obvious over a combination of Barnes (“10 Minute Guide To Windows 3.1”, SAMS, 1992), Warmus et al (US Patent No. 6,327,599) and Ikenoue et al (US Patent No. 5,987,127) under 35USC §103(a). Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 5, 10 and 11 to better define the present invention, and respectfully traverses the rejections of the Examiner.

In particular, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertion of the Examiner that Warmus et al, with a teaching of the print spool from Barnes, would conclude the distinguishing feature of the present invention that the data is intercepted when it is being sent from a print spool to an associated printer as defined expressly or in similar language in all independent claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 15. In other words, a combination of Warmus and Barnes does not suggest that the interception occurs after the data has arrived at the print spool.

First of all, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner’s reasoning is logically improper that a combination of Warmus and Barnes can conclude that the interception occurs after (or before) the data arrives at a print spool. With a print spool added to the Warmus system, even if the Examiner’s assertion is correct (which Applicant disagrees as explained in detail below) that Warmus discloses to intercept data after a print job is sent to the printer, it is still unable to conclude whether the interception is carried out before or after the data arrives the print spool. For example, the interception can be carried out after a print command is sent out from an application but before the data has arrived the print spool. In fact, a print spool is conventionally used to manage multiple print jobs in a queue, therefore it is very unlikely for Warmus, by looking into Barnes, to conceive to intercept the data after the data has arrived the print spool. Therefore, in any case, Applicant

respectfully disagrees with the assertion of the Examiner that independent claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 15 are obvious over a combination of Warmus and Barnes under 35USC §103(a).

Secondly, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the assertion of the Examiner's that Warmus discloses to intercept data to obtain variable information from a database after the print job is sent to the printer. Applicant has carefully reviewed Warmus, including the portions of Warmus cited by Examiner in the Office Action, but cannot find any disclosure for supporting such assertion that the interception occurs after the print job is sent to the printer.

To the contrary, as clearly illustrated in Fig. 5 and described in col. 8, line 57 – col. 9, line 3, of Warmus, the interception of data occurs before a the print job is sent to the printer (i.e., before the press commands file 140 is provided to the printer 79). As most clearly described in col. 8, lines 57-61 with reference to Fig. 5, the data in intermediate page files 130, 132 is intercepted to obtain the actual data (variable information) from the database 108 so as to convert the intermediate page files 130, 132 into variable page files 134, 136, before the press commands file 140 is provided to the printer 79 (which reads as “before the print job is sent to the printer”).

Moreover, as illustrated in Figs. 3 and 4, there are two different printers in the Warmus system, i.e., the demand printing system 62 and the ink jet printer 72 of the finishing apparatus 66. Applicant respectfully submits that no data interception occurs after a print job for the demand printing system 62 is sent to printing system 62, or a print job for the ink jet printer 72 is sent to printer 72, as explained below.

A demand printing system 62 in Fig. 3 basically includes the printer 79 in Fig. 5 (col. 6, lines 43-44), therefore, as explained above, the interception of data occurs before the press command is provided from the computer 54 to the control unit 52 of the printing system 62. There is no teaching or implication in Warmus that another interception of data may occur after press commands are sent

from the control unit 52 to the printer 79. Therefore, as to printing system 62 or printer 79, no interception occurs after the press command file 140 is provided from the computer 54 to the control unit 52, or after the press commands are sent from the control unit 52 to the printer 79 .

Ink jet printer 72 prints additional customized information, such as addressee information, on each book (col. 6, lines 31-33) already printed by the demand printing system 62. Applicant respectfully submits that the “additional customized information” to be printed by the ink jet printer 72 is not the variable information (e.g., the postal information described in col. 7, line 31) obtained from the database by intercepting data in a print job. Unlike the assertion of the Examiner’s, there is no teaching that the additional customized information is obtained from a database by intercepting data when the data is sent to the printer 72. In fact, what are supplied from the printing system 62 to the printer 72 are already-printed pages (in a tangible form such as paper), but not data. Thus, no data interception occurs during the printing process of the ink jet printer 72. In other words, no data is intercepted when it is sent from a print spool (if any) to the printer 72 associated with the spool, as recited in independent claims.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that a combination of Barnes and Warmus cannot result in the distinguishing feature of intercepting data when it is being sent to a printer from a print spool, as recited in independent claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 15 under 35USC §103(a). Ikenoue et al (US Patent No. 5,987,127) cannot overcome the discrepancy either. Therefore, independent claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 15 are believed patentable. At least for the same reasons, dependent claims 2-4, 6-9, 12-14 and 16-18 are also believed patentable as each of them includes all the limitation in one of the independent claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 15.

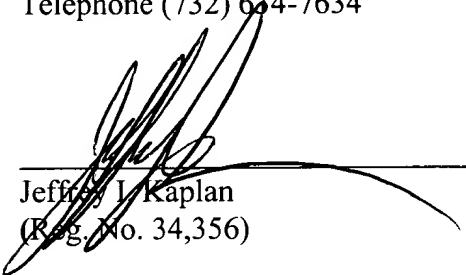
The applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance in view of the above remarks and amendments. A fee for requesting a one-month extension is enclosed. The

Examiner is authorized to deduct additional fees believed due from our Deposit Account No. 11-0223.

Respectfully submitted,

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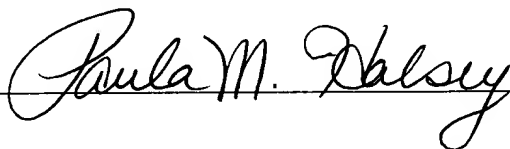


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal service as first class mail, in a postage prepaid envelope, addressed to Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on August 1, 2005.

Dated August 1, 2005 Signed



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